



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule

*--Demise of most daunting colonial pirate celebrated May 31- June 2 in downtown
Hampton;
Prepare to Walk the Plank!!--*

Hampton, VA- Pillage and plunder your way through the coastal seaport city of Hampton, Virginia this May 31-June 2 when the 14th annual Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival returns for another year of swashbuckling excitement! Celebrate Hampton's rich maritime heritage by commemorating the demise of our most infamous visitor, Captain Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard the Pirate.

Beginning May 31, roughly 50,000 seafaring attendees, as well as Blackbeard and his crew, will once again invade downtown Hampton during the 14th annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival! Interact with Blackbeard (personified by first-person interpreter Ben Cherry) and more than 100 other authentically costumed pirate re-enactors as they run rampant on the streets of America's oldest continuous English-speaking settlement.

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14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 2

The festivities kick off Friday night, May 31, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina Hotel with the 14th annual Grand Pirates Ball (creative black tie or period attire enforced). The celebration, a recreation of Blackbeard's Party at Ocracoke, will feature Caribbean food, adult beverages, live music, and more. Though the festival is free, there is an admission charge for the ball. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased beginning May 1 at

http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=22339.

Saturday's activities include a swarm of extemporized street skirmishes between pirates and militia (costumed interpreters), a replica of Blackbeard's pirate camp, complete with living history interpreters teaching the skills of the sailor circa 1700, and the trial and escape of William Howard, one of Blackbeard's fellow pirates with ties to Hampton. Don't miss the exhilarating re-enactment of the classic sea battle between Lt. Maynard and Blackbeard, featuring two full - scale replica vessels in the Hampton Harbor. At the conclusion of the sea battle a presentation ceremony takes place in which Blackbeard's severed head will be bestowed upon Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood (1710-1722). Visitors can participate in the festivities when they join Blackbeard's funeral parade, Hampton's own version of Mardi Gras, and share in the booty from the treasure chest.

This year, the Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival welcomes three tall ships to the downtown docks: MEKA II, Serenity, and Bonny Rover. Based in Beaufort, NC MEKA II has an overall length of 54' and is a 2/3 - scale replica of an 17th Century, two masted pirate brigantine armed with 8 cannons. Her homeport is Beaufort, North Carolina where locals and tourist take pride in her ongoing efforts to preserve maritime heritage. The 65' gaff rigged schooner Serenity was built in 1986 in North Carolina. Serenity is currently offering Pirate Cruises and Private Charters for Yorktown Sailing Charters in Yorktown, VA. Bonny Rover, a gaff-rigged topsail schooner, is an updated design of an 18th-

-More-

14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 3

century revenue cutter. Free tours of all three tall ships will be given over Blackbeard weekend.

This year, the event will once again feature the Blackbeard children's area, highlighting the Little Swashbuckler's Stage. The stage will host several performances, including special performances and a variety of musical acts. In addition to the children's area, guests will have the opportunity to stroll through Blackbeard's Pirate Camp where they can learn how to use a cutlass, load a cannon, or even sing a sea chantey at Pirate's Cove. At Mill Point Park, visitors can also explore a collection of 17th & 18th century period vendors selling items such as jewelry, clothing, art, and personal accessories.

Another highlight of Pirate's Cove is the Silkie's Hyde Tavern, a rustic tavern-style throwback to what a Hampton bar would have looked like in the 18th century. Feel free to rub elbows with some of the local swashbucklers and be served by wenches.

Other weekend amusements include jugglers, musicians, a pirate procession, street entertainers, cannon fire at Battery Point, period weaponry demonstrations, bird shows, and more. Head down Queens Way to check out the Blackbeard stage, complete with daytime pirate entertainment. In addition, Hampton Youth Bands, Ohana Style, Blue Ridge Country, DFD, The UnXpected, User Friendly and Inferno; and the USAF Blue Aces, will provide live music over the weekend. Saturday night will conclude with a dramatic fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. over the Hampton River!

-More-

14th annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Full Schedule

**Friday, May 31 Grand Pirates Ball Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina
Hotel**

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at
http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=22339.

Bunch of Grapes Tavern:

Saturday, June 1

11:00am	House of Cadarn
12:00pm	Shadow Players
12:30pm	Picaroon School of Piracy & Privateering
1:00	The Brigands
2:00pm	Stephen Christoff
2:30pm	Calico Jenny
4:00pm	Shadow Players
5:00pm	Picaroon School of Piracy & Privateering
5:30pm	Clan MacCool
6:30pm	Wenches of Syrens Call
7:00pm	The Brigands
8:00pm	Pub Sing

Sunday, June 2

12:00pm	The Brigands
1:00pm	Calico Jenny
2:00pm	Clan MacCool
3:00pm	The Brigands
4:00pm	Pub Sing

-More-

14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 5

Lil Swashbucklers' Stage Schedule:

Saturday, June 1

10:00am	Meet Captain Jack
10:30am	Cliff Long
11:30am	C Shells
12:30pm	Meet Captain Jack
1:00pm	Bawdy Buccaneers
1:30pm	Pep the Juggling Pirate
2:00pm	Shadow Players
2:30pm	Picaroon School of Piracy & Privateering
3:00pm	Pep the Juggling Pirate
3:30pm	C Shells
4:30pm	Cliff Long
5:30pm	Meet Captain Jack
6:00pm	C Shells
7:00pm	Cliff Long

Sunday, June 2

12:00pm	Meet Captain Jack
12:30pm	Picaroon School of Piracy & Privateering
1:00pm	C Shells
2:00pm	Pep the Juggling Pirate
2:30pm	Bawdy Buccaneers
3:00pm	Picaroon School of Piracy & Privateering
3:30pm	Meet Captain Jack
4:00pm	C Shells

-More-

14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 6

Pirate Hunters' Camp:

Saturday, June 1

10:00am	Darcy Nair
10:30am	Robin Welch
11:00am	Stephen Christoff
11:30am	Clan MacCool
12:30pm	Motley Tones
1:30pm	Darcy Nair
2:00pm	Bawdy Buccaneers
2:30pm	House of Cadarn
3:30pm	Wenches of Syrens Call
4:00pm	Calico Jenny
4:30pm	Bawdy Buccaneers
5:00pm	Stephen Christoff
5:30pm	House of Cadarn
6:00pm	Darcy Nair
6:30pm	Robin Welch
7:00pm	Stephen Christoff

Sunday, June 2

12:00pm	Darcy Nair
12:30pm	House of Cadarn
1:00pm	Wenches of Syrens Call
1:30pm	Motley Tones
2:30pm	Calico Jenny
3:30pm	Stephen Christoff
4:00pm	House of Cadarn

-More-

14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 7

Blackbeard Stage :

Saturday, June 1

10:00am	Bawdy Buccaneers
11:00am	Darcy Nair
12:00pm	Robin Welch
12:30pm	Wenches of Syrens Call
1:00pm	House of Cadarn
2:00pm	Wenches of Syrens Call
2:30pm	The Brigands
3:30pm	Motley Tones
4:30pm	Ohana Style (Youth band)
5:00pm	Rellen (Youth band)
6:00pm	The UnXpected (Youth band)
7:00pm	Jack DeWitt (Youth band)
8:00PM	Blue Ridge Country (Youth band)
9:30pm	The Blue Aces from the USAF Heritage of America Band

Sunday, June 2

12:00pm	Stephen Christoff
12:30pm	Robin Welch
1:00pm	Bawdy Buccaneers
2:00pm	Stephen Christoff
2:30pm	Wenches of Syrens Call
3:00pm	Darcy Nair

Battery Point:

Saturday, June 1

10:30am	Hawk & Owl Show
11:00am	Motley Tones
12:00pm	Cannon Shoot
1:00pm	Cannon Shoot & Demo
1:15pm	Cutlass Lessons
1:55pm	Cannon Shoot
2:00pm	Robin Welch
3:00pm	Oreo the Bad Pirate Bird
3:30pm	Darcy Nair
4:00pm	Small Arms Weapons Demo
4:30pm	Crudbeard's Cannon Lesson
5:00pm	Cutlass Lessons
5:30pm	Walk the Plank
5:55pm	Cannon Shoot
6:00pm	Cutlass Lessons

-More-

14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 8

Sunday, June 2

12:00pm	Hawk & Owl Show
12:55pm	Cannon Shoot
1:00pm	Crudbeard's Cannon Lesson
1:30pm	Small Arms Weapons Demo
2:00pm	Cutlass Lessons
2:30pm	Robin Welch
3:00pm	Oreo the Bad Pirate Bird
4:00pm	Cannon Shoot & Demo

Living History- Orders of the Day:

Saturday, June 1

10:00am Cannon Barrage to open Festival	<i>Battery Point</i>
10:00am Address by Governor Spotswood	<i>Bunch of Grapes Tavern</i>
10:15am Tavern Talk	<i>Bunch of Grapes Tavern</i>
11:00am Naval/Pirate Skirmish	<i>Waterfront</i>
11:30am Merchant Vessel Seizure	<i>Waterfront</i>
12:30pm Skirmish	<i>Battery Point</i>
12:30pm The Press Gang	<i>Carousel Park</i>
2:15pm Blackbeard's Last Fight	<i>Waterfront</i>
3:15pm Dockside Processional & Trial	<i>Bunch of Grapes Tavern</i>
5:30pm Pirate Funeral	<i>Corner of Wine & Queens</i>
Way	
9:00pm Fireworks	<i>Battery Point</i>

Sunday, June 2

11:55am Cannon Fire to Open Festival	<i>Battery Point</i>
12:45pm Pirates Strike Back	<i>Waterfront</i>
3:00pm The Press Gang	<i>Carousel Park</i>
6:00pm Festival Closing Cannons	<i>Battery Point</i>

The Blackbeard Pirate Festival is schedule as follows: 7:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31 (Blackbeard Ball- Ticketed Event); 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 1; and Noon- 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2.

-More-

14th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival Announces Complete Schedule- Page 9

For more information on these and other Hampton events and programs, individuals are encouraged to contact the Hampton Visitor Center at 757-727-1102, or the Hampton 311 Call Center at 757/727-8311. For those into surfing the web, visit www.hampton.gov/parks/blackbeard.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: Pirates are available for interviews.
Please call 757/727-8314 to schedule an appointment.**